IN THE SPECIFICATION

[0001] The present application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application 10/425,267 (filed April 29, 2003) entitled "Wedge Plate Inserter/Impactor and Related Methods for use in Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application 10/282,356 (filed October 29, 2002) entitled "Instrumentation and Methods For Use In Implanting an Artificial Intervertebral Disc", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/256,160 (filed September 26, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having Limited Rotation Using a Captured Ball and Socket Joint With a Solid Ball and Compression Locking Post", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/175,417 (filed June 19, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Utilizing a Ball Joint Coupling", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/151,280 (filed May 20, 2002) entitled "Tension Bearing Artificial Disc Providing a Centroid of Motion Centrally Located Within an Intervertebral Space", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/970,479 (filed October 4, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Spirally Slotted Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,730 ("the '730 patent") as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/140,153 (filed May 7, 2002) entitled "Artificial Intervertebral Disc Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", the former being a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/968,046 (filed October 1, 2001) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Utilizing a Belleville Washer Having Radially Extending Grooves", now abandoned and the latter being a

~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of both ~~U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/970,479~~ the '730 patent (detailed above) as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 10/128,619 (filed April 23, 2002) entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Having a Flexible Wire Mesh Vertebral Body Contact Element", which is a ~~continuing~~ continuation-in-part application of both U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/906,119 (filed July 16, 2001) and entitled "Trial Intervertebral Distraction Spacers", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,607,559 ("the '559 patent") as well as U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/982,148 (filed October 18, 2001) and entitled "Intervertebral Spacer Device Having Arch Shaped Spring Elements", now U.S. Pat. No. 6,673,113 ("the '113 patent"). All of the above mentioned applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their respective entireties.

[0014] Figs. 2a-ed show side (Fig. 2a), perspective (Fig. 2b), and close-up perspective (Fig. 2c) views of a wedge plate inserter/impactor of the present invention, including a partial cross-section view of a knob coupled to a shaft of the wedge plate inserter/impactor.